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## ARIZONA REGISTRAR *of* CONTRACTORS

*Jane Dee Hull, Governor*

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# **NEWS RELEASE – FROM THE ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS**

## **DISASTER FRAUD**

A disaster leaves more than damaged homes and uprooted lives in its wake. Fly-by-night contractors and door-to-door scam artists, eager to capitalize on the misfortunes of others descend upon a community at its most vulnerable time.

Disaster cons and frauds may take many forms. Victims of natural disasters are extremely vulnerable to unscrupulous contractors and home repair firms seeking to take unfair advantage of their plight. While all members of the affected community are potential targets, these unscrupulous contractors primarily concentrate on the elderly, uninformed, inexperienced and the young.

These are transient crime groups who follow disasters to make quick money. They usually solicit painting, carpentry, roofing work and home repairs and are known to commit other types of fraud as well.

Your best protection from unscrupulous contractors is to always verify that a contractor is licensed by contacting the Arizona Registrar of Contractors office **(602) 542-1525** or **(888) 271-9286** (web site <http://www.azroc.gov>). Even if they provide you with their license number, confirm with the Registrar of Contractors that the license is valid.

Suspicious activity should be reported to the Registrar's office and include vehicle license numbers, whenever possible.